

# Carolyn McCarthy

## Homeland Security Accomplishments – 108<sup>th</sup> Congress

*Congresswoman McCarthy is leading the charge to ensure the 4<sup>th</sup> District's emergency responders are fully trained and equipped to face any future challenge. She has worked with local fire and police departments to ensure Nassau County gets its fair share of federal homeland security funding and will work to make certain Congress addresses critical homeland security issues in 2004.*

### **MAKING SURE OUR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ARE PREPARED**

- ✓ Held seminar for fire departments interested in applying for funding through FEMA's Assistance to Fire Fighters program. Nine 4<sup>th</sup> District fire departments received \$1.2 million in grants for equipment, vehicles, and firefighter safety enhancements.
- ✓ With Congresswoman McCarthy's support, Nassau County acquired a \$6 million grant to improve its Homeland Security Interoperability systems. With this grant, local emergency responders from jurisdictions within the county will be able to communicate and coordinate strategies during various types of emergency scenarios, thus improving the county's emergency response efficiency and saving lives in the process.
- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy co-sponsored HR 1007, the Homeland Security Block Grant Act of 2003. This bill:
  - Provides funding for law enforcement, fire, and emergency resources and purchases equipment for states
  - Provides resources for Internet and infrastructure security enhancements
  - Assists local governments improve disaster response systems
  - Helps communities coordinate responses to terrorist attacks
  - Establishes critical time-saving notification systems between communities
  - Improves public communication and awareness systems
  - Provides that grants may be used to cover costs incurred for eligible activities on or after September 11, 2001.
- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy co-sponsored HR 764, the First Responders Expedited Assistance Act of 2003. The bill ensures states and local governments receive

federal homeland security funding within 120 days of being awarded the grant.

## **IMPROVING OUR NATIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy co-sponsored HR 1389, the Homeland Emergency Response Act. The bill instructs the Office for Domestic Preparedness to:
  - Establish national guidelines for state and local governments to follow when developing anti-terrorism and terrorism response strategies.
  - Establish standards for a national, interoperable emergency communications and warning system which allows for communications capability between local and other first responders on all levels of government
  - Evaluate and replace outdated equipment to be used by first responders to respond to incidents of terrorism, including incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.
- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy co-sponsored HR 3158, the Preparing America to Respond Effectively Act of 2003. The bill establishes a task force to determine essential capabilities for State and local jurisdictions to prevent, prepare for, and respond to acts of terrorism. The bill also awards preparedness grants to State and local governments.

## **MAKING OUR SKIES SAFE**

- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy co-sponsored HR 580, the Commercial Airline Missile Defense Act. The bill requires all turbojet aircraft of air carriers be equipped with a missile defense system. Requires the Defense Department to purchase these defense systems and make them available to all air carriers.
- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy co-sponsored HR 1889 (Transportation/Homeland Security) Flight Attendant Certification Act - Amends Federal transportation law to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe standards for cabin crew training and certification for individuals working in an aircraft cabin on board a transport category aircraft with twenty or more seats.
- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy co-sponsored HR 580, the Commercial Airline Missile Defense Act. The bill mandates and issues regulations requiring turbojet aircraft of air carriers to be equipped with missile defense systems.

## **PROTECTING POLICE OFFICERS**

- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy co-sponsored HR 1708 , the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2003. Provides federal funds for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, which helps State and local police departments purchase armor vests for their law enforcement officers.
- ✓ The Lynbrook, Freeport, and Hempstead Police Departments were awarded \$48,000 to purchase bullet proof vests in 2003.

## **PROTECTING OUR PORTS OF ENTRY**

- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy cosponsored HR 2193, the Port Security Improvements Act of 2003. The bill provides funding for port security enhancements, an often overlooked target of terrorists.
- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy cosponsored HR 2455, the Universal Screening of Air Cargo Act. The bill establishes systems to screen or inspect all cargo transported in passenger aircraft operated by a U.S. or foreign air carrier. Ensures that all inspections systems use equipment, technology, and personnel to screen and inspect cargo that meet the same standards established to screen passenger baggage.

## **HELPING OUR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS**

- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy co-sponsored HR 2961, the Firefighters Affordable Housing Act. Provides mortgage assistance to qualified volunteer firefighters. The bill would provide one percent down payments (and deferral and reduction of up-front premium) for Federal Housing Administration mortgage loans for qualified professional firefighters to purchase homes within the jurisdictions of their employing public fire service or rescue or ambulance agency.